

ER 7-6176

15 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government in transmitting the report of General Clark's Task Force on the CIA submitted only one recommendation, namely:

- a. That the President appoint a committee of experienced private citizens, who shall have the responsibility to examine and report to him periodically on the work of Government foreign intelligence activities. This committee should also give such information to the public as the President may direct. The committee should function on a part time and per diem basis.
- b. That the Congress consider creating a Joint Congressional Committee on Foreign Intelligence, similar to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. In such case, the two committees, one Presidential and the other Congressional, could collaborate on matters of special importance to the national security.

This recommendation involved a modification of the Clark Task Force recommendation for a mixed committee of Members of Congress and outstanding civilians, somewhat like the Hoover Commission itself.

The Hoover Commission's recommendation with regard to a Congressional "watchdog" committee will probably come up in the coming Session of Congress. Senator Mansfield has long been advocating such a joint Congressional Committee and Senator H. Alexander Smith introduced into the last Session of Congress a Bill to carry out the Hoover Commission recommendation. I do not think that Senator Smith has any strong feelings but merely introduced his Bill as a favor to the Hoover Commission.

Mansfield will press his Bill if he can get it out of Committee. I have had many discussions on this subject with both Senator Russell

and Senator Saltonstall, the Chairman and ranking Minority Member of the Armed Services Committee. Both are opposed to the "watchdog" committee idea in principle and I believe that in the House neither Carl Vinson nor Dewey Short are favorable to it. It is, therefore, questionable whether the Bill will ever reach the Floor although there is undoubtedly considerable sentiment in Congress in favor of it.

After several talks which I have had with Senator Mansfield, the real proponent of the measure, he has modified his original suggestion to a point where it is less objectionable. He now proposes that his Committee be composed of the ranking Senate and House members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, each of which has jurisdiction with respect to CIA in their respective fields.

I have never come out in opposition to the idea of a "watchdog" committee as I felt that tactically it was unwise to do so. In general, however, I would prefer the "status quo" as relations with both the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees have been extremely satisfactory. I see no reason for a change.

From our earlier conversations I have gathered that you favor the designation of a high-level committee of civilians -- a kind of Board of Visitors -- to meet with the CIA at intervals of their choosing. I would willingly accept such a solution.

It would be helpful if such a committee were appointed before Congress meets next year and hence not follow possible debate on or off the Floor of Congress with respect to the Mansfield proposal. Accordingly I suggest the names of certain persons who might be considered for such a committee. I have listed persons who for the most part are thoroughly familiar with our work, who could make a real contribution, and whose security I believe is unquestioned.

- (1) General James H. Doolittle (Air Force), Doolittle Committee Chairman.
- (2) Admiral Richard L. Conolly (Navy), Member of Clark Task Force.
- (3) General Omar N. Bradley, or
- (4) General John E. Hull (Army) -- both were familiar with our work during their period of military service.

- (5) Morris Hadley (lawyer), Member of Doolittle Committee.
- (6) William B. Franke (accountant), Member of Doolittle Committee. (As he is now serving as Assistant Secretary of the Navy he could probably take on this job only after he has severed his connections with the Navy.)
- (7) Admiral Sidney W. Souers (businessman), who was head of the CIG, predecessor organization of the CIA, and also Executive Director of the NSC during the last Administration.
- (8) David K. E. Bruce, former Ambassador and Under Secretary of State and one of Bill Donovan's chief assistants in the OSS.
- (9) Henry M. Wriston, ex-President of Brown University, or
- (10) Donald S. Russell (Clark Committee), President of the University of South Carolina.

In these suggestions I have tried to include various types of professional competence and reasonable diversity of geographic and political affiliations.

The Committee should probably not have more than seven members. I would also suggest that members be appointed for terms of varied length, such as: three for three years, two for two years, and two for one year. This would provide an opportunity for introduction of new members.

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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